

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143912

44

ORIGIN L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SP-02 SS-15 H-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-03 DODE-00

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APPROVED BY L/SFP:LGFIELDS,JR.

EUR/SE - MR. J. DAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, EFIN, GR

SUBJECT:FOREIGN TAXATION OF USG EXPENDITURES ABROAD

REF: ATHENS 4488

1. WHILE COMMITTEE IS AWARE OF AND SYMPATHETIC TO ON-GOING WORKING LEVEL EFFORTS ON BASE AGREEMENT, FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS HAVE PROMPTED REQUEST TO VISIT GREECE FOR TAX STUDY AND CONSULTATIONS AT THIS TIME. COMMITTEE FY 75 BUDGET HAS FUNDS FOR THIS TRIP WITHOUT DRAWING ON BUREAU FUNDS AND FY76 TRAVEL FUNDS ARE NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. FOR THIS REASON COMMITTEE HOPES EMBASSY CAN ACCOMMODATE THE VISIT AT THIS TIME TO ENABLE IT TO COMPLETE ITS STAFF WORK ON ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE TAX EXPERTISE TO NEGOTIATING TEAM. FIELDS AND BOYD WILL MINIMIZE DEMANDS ON EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES DURING VISIT AND DO NOT ENVISAGE ANY CONTACT WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS, ASSUMING AVAILABILITY OF TAX DATA WITHIN MISSION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 143912

2. COMMITTEE HAS A DOD PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE TAX

ARTICLE AND WISHES TO DISCUSS IT WITH CONCERNED EMBOFFS AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. THE CONSULTATIONS CAN HOPEFULLY PRODUCE A FULLY COORDINATED POSITION ON ANTICIPATED TAX ISSUES WHENEVER TALKS RESUME.

3. TO CLARIFY THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR TAX SITUATION COMMITTEE DID NOT MEAN TO INFER THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM IN GREECE; HOWEVER, IN ITS OVERALL TAX STUDY FOR EC MEMBER AND ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES IT INTENDS TO PRESENT A CURRENT VIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF EXEMPTION. AT PRESENT THE COMMITTEE HAS FOUND WIDE DISPARITY IN EXEMPTION ATTITUDE AND POLICIES WITHIN EEC. A "NO PROBLEM AREA" IS EVEN MORE HELPFUL TO COMMITTEE'S REPORT THAN A "PROBLEM AREA" AND IT IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE GOG MECHANISM FOR HANDLING EXEMPTIONS, ATTITUDE ON TAXES VERSUS SERVICE FEES, LEGAL BASES FOR EXEMPTION, ETC.

4. IF IT WILL NOT UNDULY STRAIN EMBASSY RESOURCES, COMMITTEE HOPES THAT VISIT CAN BE ACCOMMODATED NOW. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

KISSINGER

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